International Classification of Diseases (ICD)

The causes of death examined in this report are defined in terms of codes from the Eighth and Ninth revisions of the *International Classification of Diseases.*[6,7] The Ninth revision was implemented in 1979. Causes examined in this report represent the underlying cause of death.

Projections to 1990

The North Carolina projections depicted in this report are based on fitting a linear regression model to the logarithm of the observed rates, percentages or numbers observed during 1982-86. Logarithms are used because they follow a constant proportional change rather than a constant arithmetical change. These log-linear projections assume that the lower a value has become, the more difficult it will be to achieve further reductions. However, these projections are only extrapolations of the observed trends and could be substantially inaccurate if 1987 - 1990 trends depart very much from those of the recent past. The projections are based on data for 1982 - 1986, the latest five years available in 1988, when the previous report was published. It was felt that 1987 - 1990 trends would correspond more closely to those of the last five years than those of the longer-term past. Again, the projections were only "statistical estimates" of the values expected for the period 1987 through 1990, and in some cases they were grossly inaccurate.